

# FFNAC

## Florida Food and Nutrition Advisory Council Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services • Department of Education Department of Elder Affairs • Department of Health

### Council Members

Ms. Joan Pender, Chairperson  
Volunteer/Food Service Coordinator  
Children's Home Society of Florida

Ms. Christine Farneti, Director  
Volusia County School Food Service

Ms. Rubis Castro  
Lutheran Services Florida

Mr. Roy Pistone, Director  
Flagler County School Food Service

Ms. Francesca Whitener  
Suwannee Valley 4-C

Mrs. Eugenia Thomas  
Private School Representative

Mr. Jack B. Shanklin, Jr., Principal  
Andrew Jackson High School

Ms. Sheila Sheridan, Director  
Collier County School Food Service

Ms. Betty Allen, Manager  
School Food Service

Ms. Ruth A. Vannerson  
Ernest Ward Middle School

Ms. Susan Johnson  
Department of Juvenile Justice

Mr. Lee Lloyd  
Florida Department of Corrections

Ms. Beth Duffy, CCE, LD  
Teacher, Rutherford High School

Ms. Peggy Kelly  
District Instructional Administrator  
Northeast Florida Education Consortium

Mr. Eldon Chambers, Administrator  
Alachua County School Food Service

Ms. Terry B. Freeman, RN  
Florida PTA Representative

Mr. Russell Larramore, Superintendent  
Bradford County School District

Mr. Arthur McDaniel, Assistant Principal  
Rainbow Elementary School

April 4, 2000

Mr. Les Johnson  
Director, Food Distribution Division  
Food and Nutrition Service  
3101 Park Center Drive  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Florida Food and Nutrition Advisory Council at its regular Spring 2000 meeting discussed USDA's Commodity Order Re-engineering (CORE) final report. Our committee appreciates the systemized approach utilized and the considerable time spent by the CORE team to develop the summary recommendations contained in the report.

Florida supports a number of proposals in the report's section three. These include the following recommendations:

3.1.5 Provide adequate federal dollars for program state administration.

3.1.6.1 Provide an option to "cash out" agencies that fall below a specific dollar threshold level.

3.2.1.7 Remove Truckload barriers-provide multiple stops per shipment.

3.2.6 Encourage USDA to enter into long term contracts with suppliers.

Committee members have grave concerns, however, concerning proposals that re-define and re-structure long standing commodity food purchase and delivery systems. The first concept questioned relates to the move to purchase additional

Mr. Les Johnson  
April 4, 2000  
Page 2

products restricted for reprocessing into a commercially identified and distributed product. A second concern brings question to the viability of the "universal communication system" which by-passes the current agency set up.

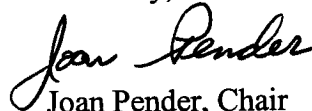
The committee also has a major concern that CORE recommendations rest on limited background research and do not appear to represent the interest of the majority (recipients). Florida Food Service Directors and School Superintendents worry that this new direction will lead to higher program costs to local school boards and a breakdown in local agencies ability to support vital disaster feeding efforts.

It is for the above stated reasons that the Florida Food and Nutrition Advisory Committee recommends that USDA:

- Proceed with its "quick fixes" dated November 2, 1999, because they are basic management improvements and quite similar to the 1986 panel recommendations that were not acted upon by USDA.
- Cease further "transformation" of the Food Distribution Program until USDA has valid data, including, but not limited to, the additional cost to be born by local school districts, upon which to direct program modifications.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joan Pender, Chair  
Florida Food and Nutrition  
Advisory Council

JP/cq

cc: Council Members